Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ABU DH 01071 191035Z

47
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

/056 W
---------- 090174
R 190940Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2946
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1071

BEIRUT FOR BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PINT, TC
SUBJ: OTAIBA AND SUWAIDI COMMENT ON INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION

1. BOTH MINISTER OF PETROLEUM OTAIBA, AND FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAIDI, WHOM I HAVE TALKED WITH SEPARATELY LAST FEW DAYS, HAD SOME INTERESTING COMMENTS TO MAKE ABOUT INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN LIGHT OF RESULTS MAY 12 SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING.

2. BOTH SEEMED MORE DISSATISFIED THAN SATISFIED WITH RESULTS, MAKING IDENTICAL COMMENT THAT MEETING UNFORTUNATELY REVEALED THAT SUSPICIONS WHICH RULERS HARBOR ABOUT EACH OTHER ARE STILL MAIN MOTIVATING FORCE IN THEIR AFFAIRS. SUWAIDI SAID THAT BY NOW RULERS SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT IF THEY FACE ANY THREAT IT IS NOT FROM EACH OTHER BUT FROM HOSTILE OUTSIDE FORCES, AGAINST WHICH THEY CAN ONLY PROTECT THEMSELVES THROUGH COOPERATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ABU DH 01071 191035Z

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

3. OTAIBA TOLD ME THAT FOLLOWING SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING FEDERAL COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD HELD STORMY SESSION DURING WHICH PREVAILING MOOD WAS VERY CRITICAL OF STALLING TACTICS OF RULERS ON MILITARY UNIFICATION. MINISTERS FELT THERE WAS NO NEED TO CALL IN FOREIGN EXPERTS TO ADVISE AS TO WHETHER UNIFICATION WAS DESIRABLE OR NOT -- THIS WAS SOMETHING UAEG OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO DECIDE FOR ITSELF. ACCORDING TO OTAIBA MINISTER VOTED UNANIMOUSLY THAT DECISION TO CALL IN FOREIGN EXPERTS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED AND RECOMMENDEO INSTEAD THAT SHAIKH ZAYID SUMMON ANOTHER MEETING OF RULERS TO GET THEM TO BITE THIS BULLET THEMSELVES. OTAIBA SAID ANOTHER COMPLICATING FACTOR WAS WRANGLE THAT HAD ERUPTED OVER WHO MINISTER OF DEFENSE WOULD BE TO HEAD UP UNIFIED FEDERAL FORCE. SHAIKH MUHAMMAD IBN RASHID (PRESENT MINISTER OF DEFENSE) WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO ABU DHABI BECAUSE HE WAS UNABLE TO RISE ABOVE DUBAI'S PAROCHIAL BORDER SQUABBLE WITH SHARJAH. ON OTHER HAND DUBAI WOULD NOT HAVE SHAIKH KAHLIFA IBN ZAYID, AND SHAIKH FAISAL AL-QASIMI WAS NON GRATA TO SHAIKH SAQR OF RAS AL-KHAIMAH BECAUSE HE WAS SON OF FORMER RULER WHOM SAQR HAD DEPOSED. THERE WAS NO OTHER CANDIDATE IN SIGHT EVERYBODY COULD AGREE ON.

4. ACCORDING TO SUWAIDI FEDERAL CABINET SUBMITTED ITS RESIGNATION SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, BUT NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN FORMING NEW GOVERNMENT. SHAIKH ZAYID IN MEANTIME HAS ASKED PRESENT CABINET TO STAY ON. SUWAIDI SAID SHAIKH ZAYID HAD OFFERED SHAIKH RASHID PRIME MINISTERSHIP TOGETHER WITH OFFER TO TURN OVER 80 PERCENT OF ABU DHABI INCOME TO FEDERAL BUDGET IF DUBAI WOULD DO SAME, WITH PROMISE THAT RASHID WOULD HAVE CARTE BLANCHE TO RUN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF FEDERATION THE WAY HE WANTED. BUT, ACCORDING TO SUWAIDI, RASHID HAS NEVER RESPONDED TO OFFER.

5. SUWAIDI SAID RECENT GO-AROUND HAD LEFT HIM DISILLUSIONED WITH OTHER RULERS. I SAID I COULD WELL UNDERSTAND HIS FRUSTRATION BUT COMMENTED THAT FROM MY OWN TALKS WITH PEOPLE IN OTHER EMIRATES I THOUGHT THERE WERE SOME QUITE GENUINE AND SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT DIRECTION OF SOME OF ABU DHABI'S POLICIES. EXAMPLE WAS RECENT DECISION IN ABU DHABI TO BAR ANY FURTHER IMMIGRATION OF LABOR FROM SUBCONTINENT IN FAVOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

OF ARAB COUNTRIES. WAS IT NOT LEGITIMATE FOR OTHER RULERS TO WONDER WHETHER THEY WERE SAFER WITH EGYPTIAN/PALESTINIAN LABOR FORCE IN UAE INSTEAD OF BALUCHI/PAKISTANIS? SUWAIDI SAID SHAIKH ZAYID WAS WILLING TO SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS ANY OF HIS POLICIES WITH OTHER RULERS. HE WOULD BE WILLING TO ADMIT THAT SOME MISTAKES MIGHT HAVE BEEN MADE IN PAST THREE YEARS. HE WOULD MEET THEM HALF WAY IN FORMULATING NEW POLICIES. BUT TROUBLE WAS THAT WHILE OTHER RULERS WERE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

READY TO CRITICIZE THEY WOULD NOT ENGAGE THEMSELVES IN WORKING FOR REFORM OR SUGGESTING ALTERNATIVES. THIS WAS ATTITUDE TO BE EXPECTED FROM MAN IN STREET BUT WAS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR RULERS.

6. I ASKED SUWAIDI WHETHER IT WAS TRUE THAT OTHER RULERS HAD ASKED FOR SCALING DOWN OF ABU DHABI DEFENSE FORCE AS CONDITION OF MERGER OF VARIOUS EMIRATE MILITARY FORCES. SUWAIDI DID NOT ANSWER DIRECTLY BUT GAVE SUPRISINGLY SHARP PERSONAL CRITICISM OF NEEDLESS BUILD-UP OF ADDF, PARTICULARLY ACQUISITION OF EXPENSIVE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS. HE SAID UNFORTUNATELY THERE WERE SO MANY SHAIKHS TAKING A PROFIT ON ARMS SALES THAT THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULD DO ABOUT IT.

7. INCIDENTALLY, CONTRARY TO WHAT I UNDERSTOOD SHAIKH RASHID TO TELL ME THE OTHER DAY, IT APPEARS COUNTRIES THAT WERE INVITED TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON MILITARY UNIFICATION QUESTION WERE JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA, AND KUWAIT. EGYPT AND MOROCCO WERE EVIDENTLY MENTIONED IN TERMS OF PROVIDING EXPERTS IN OTHER FIELDS.
STERNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ABUDH01071
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750175-0486
From: ABU DHABI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750537/aaaabhgf.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <21 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OTAIBA AND SUWAIDI COMMENT ON INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION
TAGS: PINT, TC, (OTAIBA, MANA BIN SAID), (SUWAYDI, AHMAD KHALIFA AL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006